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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## What is a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship?

In the past few months there have been several public meetings in the 3 counties that included discussion concerning the Veterinarian Feed Directive that will begin on January 1, 2017. This will deal with needing what basically amounts to a prescription for any antibiotics that would be added to feed. In order to get this you would need a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship. As we continue to move toward the beginning of these new regulations, there will be more meetings and more discussion in this column. I will attempt to keep you informed of things as they continue to develop.

The following appeared in last week's Beef Cattle Letter that comes from the OSU Extension Beef Team. This is a weekly newsletter that you have access to. I forward it to people who are on my Beef Cattle mailing list. If you would like to be added simply send a request to: [dugan.46@osu.edu](mailto:dugan.46@osu.edu)

Some have asked exactly what's required in maintaining a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship? Here's the answer as explained by OSU Extension Program Coordinator [Jeff Workman](#) in a recent Ohio Veterinary Newsletter: A veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) is defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association as the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients, and their patients and is critical to the health of your animal. A VCPR means that all of the following are required.

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the patient and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarians' instructions.
2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian, or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.
3. The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for the following: veterinary emergency coverage, and continuing care and treatment.
4. The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.
5. Patient records are maintained.

The practical explanation is that it is a formal relationship that you have with a veterinarian who serves as your primary contact for all veterinary services and is familiar with you, your livestock/animals, and



your farm operation. This veterinarian is referred to as your Veterinarian of Record (VoR), and both the VoR and the client should sign a form to document this relationship. You can download a VCPR template developed by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association Drug Use Task Force at: <https://vet.osu.edu/extension/general-food-fiber-animal-resources>.

This can be thought of as similar to having a primary “family doctor” where that individual is the one whom you consult with regarding prescription needs, changes in health status, or specialized services. Because the VoR somewhat regularly provides veterinary services to you, they may be able to approve prescriptions and provide consultation over the telephone. Having an established VCPR is important to help protect consumers and avoid residues in meat and milk. This becomes even more crucial to a farm operation with the changes regarding the purchase of antibiotics and the veterinary feed directive (VFD). <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm>.

## **IMPACT OF FROST ON SOYBEAN AND CORN SURVIVAL**

The cold snap that hit Southern Ohio in the past 2 weeks may have had some impact on crops. I know at least one tobacco plant producer had some damage to outside plants. The impact on soybeans and corn was not likely significant, but here is some information from OSU Extension Soybean Specialist Laura Lindsey and OSU Extension Corn Specialist, Peter Thomison in the CORN Newsletter that can be accessed at [corn.osu.edu](http://corn.osu.edu). This is not the entire article.

Soybean: Last Monday, May 16, air temperatures dropped to high 20s/low 30s causing some freeze injury to soybeans. Soybeans in low areas of the field are most likely to be affected. Plants should be assessed for damage at least five days after suspected injury to inspect for regrowth. If damage occurred above the cotyledons, the plant will likely recover. If damaged occurred below the cotyledons, the plant will not recover. Look for a discolored hypocotyl (the “crook” of the soybean that first emerges from the ground) which indicates that damage occurred below the cotyledons.

Although early planted corn has been severely damaged by recent frosts in some areas, the effects of the low temperatures on corn survival will probably be negligible for the most part. In past years, we have observed that corn that was in the process of germinating or as far along as the V1 stage (one leaf collar visible) survived freezing soil temperatures in April with little impact on crop performance or plant stand. Agronomists generally downplay the impact of low temperature injury in corn because the growing point is at or below the soil surface until V6 (six leaf collars visible), and thereby relatively safe from freezing air temperatures. Moreover, the cell contents of corn plants can sometimes act as an “antifreeze” to allow temperatures to drop below 32 degrees F before tissue freezes, but injury to corn is often fatal when temperatures drop to 28 degrees F or lower for even a few minutes. Effects of low temperatures on germination are far more serious when combined with snow and freezing rain. When dry corn seed absorbs cold water as a result of a cold rain or melting snow, “imbibitional chilling injury” may result. However these conditions were largely absent following the recent frosts.

### **Dates to Remember**

June 16

Nature Photography at 5:30 p.m. at Chatfield. Call 378-4424 ext. 125